



# Department of State

**TELEGRAM**

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AN: D800383-0102

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 10-14 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-07 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
SMS-01 HA-05 TRSE-00 SY-05 CCS-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
INRE-00 /104

-----077572 111434Z 42  
C 111238Z AUG 80

**FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1967  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA**

AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0604  
AMEMBASSY Dacca  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
JMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
JUSICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CINCEUR VAIHENGJEN, GE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDOVER

REVIEWED BY John Kelly DATE 8/14/89  
( ) UNCLASSIFIED  
( ) UNCLASSIFIED in PART  
( ) CONFIDENTIAL  
( ) Non-responsive info.  
FOR NO or PA exceptions  
TS authority to:  
( ) CLASSIFIED TO ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR  
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C, OADR

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KARACHI ALSO FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 12065: GDS 8/11/86 (GRIFFIN, GEORGE G. B.) CR-M  
TAGS: ASEC PDIP PEPR PINS PINT SHUM AF  
SUBJECT: **SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN**

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REF: KABUL 2303 ✓

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1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: KABUL IS BOTH TIRED AND EXPECTANT AT THE END OF RAMAZAN AND THE EVE OF A FOUR-DAY ID HOLIDAY. THE CITY HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET FOR THE PAST WEEK, BUT GAS AND FOOD SHORTAGES HAVE CONTINUED, AS HAVE SPOT SEARCHES OF PEOPLE AND VEHICLES AND THE SLIGHTLY ENHANCED SECURITY STATUS OF SOVIET AND AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES. THERE ARE VAGUE RUMORS OF IMPENDING TROUBLES DURING THE ID HOLIDAYS AND PAINTED ANTI-REGIME SLOGANS HAVE APPEARED ON KABUL WALLS. MAJOR RESISTANCE ATTACKS ON REGIME INSTALLATIONS OCCURRED SOUTH OF KABUL IN LOGAR ON AUGUST 7, PROVOKING STRONG RETALIATION. THERE ARE FRESH STORIES OF FIGHTING NEAR GHAZNI, IN HERAT AND ELSEWHERE. SEVERAL MORE AMERICANS HAVE DEPARTED, LEAVING THE TOTAL IN COUNTRY AT LESS THAN 40. END SUMMARY.

3. CITIZENS OF KABUL, FATIGUED BY THE MONTH-LONG RAMAZAN FASTING, HAVE GONE ON A BUYING SPREE IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF ID-UL-FITR, WHICH THE REGIME HAS EXTENDED INTO A FOUR-DAY HOLIDAY STARTING AUGUST 12. (THE EMBASSY WILL CLOSE ON AUGUST 12, BUT WILL REOPEN AUGUST 13.) RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN THE CITY HAS DIMINISHED AND SMALL-ARMS GUNFIRE HAS BEEN HEARD ONLY RARELY DURING THE PAST FOUR DAYS AND NIGHTS. SOVIET AIR AND CONVOY ACTIVITY HAS ALSO REMAINED RELATIVELY LIGHT, EXCEPT FOR HEAVY TRANSPORT FLIGHTS.

4. GASOLINE AND FOOD SHORTAGES HAVE CONTINUED, WITH LONG LINES AT SERVICE STATIONS AND DRA FOOD SHOPS. THOSE AT GAS STATIONS WERE SOMEWHAT REDUCED ON AUGUST 11, PERHAPS IN REACTION TO A DRA ANNOUNCEMENT THAT, IN LIGHT OF A NEW  
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DRA/USSR CONTRACT, UNLIMITED SUPPLIES OF GASOLINE, KEROSENE AND DIESEL FUEL WOULD BE AVAILABLE SHORTLY. (THE REGIME ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SCHOOLS WOULD REOPEN ON AUGUST 16, DESPITE RUMORS THAT THEY WOULD BE CLOSED UNTIL 1981.)

5. STANDARD RUMORS OF IMPENDING RESISTANCE ATTACKS ON THE REGIME DURING ID ARE CIRCULATING IN KABUL, BUT NO SPECIFIC DATES OR PLANS HAVE BEEN HEARD. AFGHAN AND SOVIET SECURITY FORCES REMAIN ALERT GUARDING SENSITIVE INSTALLATIONS AS

SPECULATION CONTINUES THAT TOP KHALQIS ARE ABOUT TO BE

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CLUSTED, OR EXILED. SPOT SEARCHES OF INDIVIDUALS AND VEHICLES HAVE INTENSIFIED AND SOVIET ROADBLOCKS ON MAJOR ARTERIES HAVE NOT BEEN REDUCED. ANTI-REGIME SLOGANS APPEARED ON WALLS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF KABUL ON AUGUST 9, BUT WORKERS HAD REMOVED MOST OF THEM BY AUGUST 11. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THE APPEARANCE OF FLYERS WITH KING ZAHIR'S PHOTOGRAPH ON AUGUST 7 IN PARWAN, LOGAR AND KABUL PROVINCES.

6. SEVERAL CONTACTS TOLD EMBSCFFS ABOUT RESISTANCE ATTACKS ON THE VILLAGE OF MOHAMMAD ZAYEE ON THE LOGAR ROAD NEAR THE TOWN OF SHER WAKI (ABOUT 10 KM SOUTH OF KABUL) ON AUGUST 7. INSURGENTS REPORTEDLY COMPLETED AN EFFORT BEGUN WEEKS AGO BY BURNING DOWN WHAT WAS LEFT OF A HOSPITAL THERE AND THEN WENT ON TO BURN A SCHOOL AND BLOW UP THE LOCAL ELECTRIC POWER STATION. SOVIET HELICOPTERS AND JETS APPARENTLY RETALIATED, SEVERELY DAMAGING LARGE PARTS OF THE VILLAGE AND SHER WAKI ITSELF, LEAVING AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE DEAD.

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INRE-00 /104 W

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C 111230Z AUG 80

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1968

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAIHENGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABL 2326

7. A RELIABLE AMOIT SOURCE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN HERAT  
ON AUGUST 6 AS "CHAOTIC," WITH ROVING SANDS OF ARMED MEN  
PRESSURING INHABITANTS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH FOOD, SHELTER  
AND MONEY. HE SAID THAT NEITHER AFGHAN NOR SOVIET TROOPS  
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET A GRIP ON THE CITY, AND THAT FIGHTING  
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WAS GOING ON IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE CITY DAY AND NIGHT FOR  
OVER A WEEK. LESS RELIABLE REPORTS AFTER AUGUST 6 INCL-

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DATE THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT IMPROVED MEASURABLY. MEAN-  
WHILE, STORMS OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN SHAZNI AND WARDAK  
PROVINCES ON AUGUST 9 AND 10 HAVE REACHED KABUL. ONE INFOR-  
MANT CLAIMED THAT THE NEWLY APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF WARDAK WAS  
SHOT AND KILLED BY INSURGENTS IN CHAK ON AUGUST 8. (OTHER  
VERSIONS INDICATE THAT THE DECEASED MAY HAVE BEEN THE NEW  
GOVERNOR OF CHAK.) LESS RELIABLE REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN THE  
PANJSHIR VALLEY AND NEAR BAGRAM AIR FORCE BASE HAVE ALSO BEEN  
RECEIVED.

8. ONE AMERICAN REPORTER (STUART AJERBACH OF THE WASHINGTON  
POST) MANAGED TO SLIP UNDETECTED BY THE REGIME INTO AND OUT  
OF THE COUNTRY THIS WEEK. AT LEAST SIX RESIDENT AMERICANS LEFT  
DURING THE WEEK, DROPPING THE KNOWN TOTAL TO 38. ANOTHER  
TWO LONG-TIME RESIDENTS PLAN TO SLIP AWAY VIA PAKISTAN IN  
THE NEXT FEW DAYS. GRIFFIN

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